

## REMARKS

This is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed December 30, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Applicants' claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaphan (US 2,399,744). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection based on the amendments to the claims and for the reasons stated herein below.

The present invention, as recited in amended claims 1-16, is directed to a curled decorative grass for use in Easter baskets, as a packing material, as an animal bedding, as cat litter, as mulch for soil and as a media for plants. The curled decorative grass **comprises a plurality of individual curled strips having a predetermined width** and formed from a curled sheet of material.

Kaphan is directed to a decorative **fabric** composed of **a** flexed elastic preformed spiral plastic unit **firmly attached** to a backing (Column 1, lines 4-10), for use in handbags and the like (Column 1, lines 25-26).

Applicants respectfully submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize the difference between decorative grass, which is utilized by disposing a sample of the individual curled strips into a basket or other container, and a portion of a fabric. In addition, the decorative grass recited in the claims of the subject application is in the form of a **plurality of individual curled strips**, while the Kaphan reference only teaches a **single**,

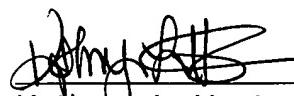
preformed plastic unit that must be **attached** to a substrate (backing) before it is useful.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Kaphan clearly does not teach or disclose a decorative grass as recited in the amended claims of the subject application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1-16 as now pending.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-16, as now pending, are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or the remarks contained herein, Applicants' agent would welcome the opportunity to discuss such matters with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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